

100
Canterbury Centennial Celebrations



International Festival
of
Documentary Films

Sponsored by:

Christchurch Film Society

and

Canterbury Centennial Association

Civic Theatre, Christchurch

October 16 to 28, 1950

International Festival of Documentary Films

The International Festival of Documentary Films, first of its kind to be held in Australia or New Zealand, has been organised by the Christchurch Film Society under the auspices of the Art and Cultural Committee of the Canterbury (N.Z.) Centennial Association. It is the Society's contribution to Canterbury's Centennial Celebrations.

More than a year ago the Society, inspired by the success of the International Festivals of Documentary Films held at Edinburgh in 1947, 1948, and 1949, decided to organise a similar Festival in Christchurch. Approaches were made to the representatives of Commonwealth and foreign Governments of more than 20 countries, and they were asked to arrange for outstanding documentary films to be sent to Christchurch for the Festival.

From the large number of films—more than 100—received from the countries which have accepted invitations to be represented the committee has selected the programmes that are being screened this month. Some of the films are being screened on several nights, notably the main New Zealand entry, "Canterbury is a Hundred." This fine colour film, produced by the National Film Unit, was made specially for the Centennial Celebrations. It portrays the growth of the province from the days when the first settlers stood at the top of the Bridle Path and gazed on the bare plains to the present day when Canterbury is the granary of New Zealand.

PROGRAMME

Saturday, October 21

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

UNITED STATES

***MODERN HOLLAND: INDUSTRY**

NETHERLANDS

ACCIDENTS DON'T HAPPEN

CANADA

TOYLAND REVOLT

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

I n t e r v a l

***AS OLD AS THE HILLS**

UNITED KINGDOM

BISKUPIN

POLAND

THORVALDSEN

DENMARK

FLIGHT PLAN

AUSTRALIA

**In colour.*

Programme Notes

INTERNATIONAL HOUSE

United States

Produced by the State Department by the reorientation branch of the Army Department.

Some large American universities include among their buildings an International House where students from all over the world can live. There are such houses at Columbia University in New York, Chicago University, and the University of California in Berkley. The film shows students of various nationalities at the International House at Columbia University and describes the study, recreational, and social facilities available to them.

MODERN HOLLAND: INDUSTRY

Netherlands

This fine film in colour deals with a Holland which is not so well known as the country of windmills, canals, tulips, and wooden shoes. It covers various aspects of industry today.

ACCIDENTS DON'T HAPPEN

Canada

Produced by the National Film Board of Canada for the Department of Labour.

The tale of "an accident that ain't happened yet" demonstrates with humour what wearing the wrong clothes on the job can do to a machinist. This film is the fifth in a series primarily intended for industrial audiences. It appeals to all audiences, however, because of its humorous treatment.

TOYLAND REVOLT

Czechoslovakia

Produced by Czechoslovak State Films.

Another puppet film which tells its story with gaiety, good humour and economy. It deals with a revenge taken by toys on a Nazi S.S. man who invades a toy-maker's shop.

AS OLD AS THE HILLS

United Kingdom

Halas Batchelor colour cartoon made for the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company.

This film tells simply and accurately the story of petroleum—what it is made of and how it came to be in the earth. The artist has gone back 100,000,000 years in time to tell a story which is “as old as the hills.” He has had the assistance of experts in the Museums of Natural History and Geology in London, not to mention the unconscious co-operation of lizards, turtles, and fishes in Zoological Gardens while their movements were being sketched.

BISKUPIN

Poland

Produced by Polish Scientific Film Studios. Direction: Jerzy Stefanowski. Photography: Stefanowski and Zdzislaw Sluzar. Music of Paderewski played by Lidia Berezynska.

Biskupin is the name of a prehistoric Slav settlement established more than 2,000 years ago. The film is a record of the archeological research of Polish scientists, technicians, and workers, and the discoveries they have made during their excavations of an ancient town which has become widely known in the scientific world.

THORVALDSEN

Denmark

Produced by Dansk Kulturfilm. Direction: Carl Dreyer.

Carl Theodor Dreyer is one of the world's great film directors. His masterly study of witchcraft, *Day of Wrath*, is considered to be one of the world's most important contributions to the art of the cinema. This documentary film deals with the art of the great Danish sculptor Thorvaldsen.

FLIGHT PLAN

Australia

Australian National Film Board production. Direction: Lee Robinson. Photography: Frank Bagnall. Music: Clive Douglas.

This film is a review of civil aviation in Australia, showing the organisation and operation of safety control. It also deals with such subjects as the Flying Doctor service, private airlines, aircraft maintenance and airport developments.

PROGRAMMES TO COME

Monday, October 23

Water For a Nation	<i>United States</i>
*Trooping the Colour	<i>United Kingdom</i>
Shaped By Danish Hands	<i>Denmark</i>
Children's Zoo	<i>United States</i>
Indian Art Through the Ages	<i>India</i>
No Strangers Here	<i>Australia</i>
<i>*In colour.</i>	

Tuesday, October 24

Story of Sindri	<i>India</i>
*How To Build An Igloo	<i>Canada</i>
Denmark Trains Her Seamen	<i>Denmark</i>
Cricket	<i>United Kingdom</i>
It Might Have Been You	<i>Czechoslovakia</i>
*Canterbury is a Hundred	<i>New Zealand</i>
The Undefeated	<i>United Kingdom</i>
<i>*In colour.</i>	

Programme Notes

To be screened on Friday, 20th October.

HIDDEN POWER

Italy

An interesting documentary on the exploitation of underground power at Lardarello, Italy. The Lardarello plant, built in the midst of the thermal regions that inspired Dante's vision of Inferno, is at present the only one in the world operated on volcanic energy. Produced by Guido Manera for Phoenix Films.

(10 minutes.)

To be screened on Saturday, 21st October

FOOD HANDLING

New Zealand

This instructive film on hygienic (and other) methods of preparing and serving meals was made in Auckland for the Department of Health by the National Film Unit. It is an eye-opener on the conditions prevailing in the less reputable eating-houses. Directed by Kathleen O'Brien, with Richard Crone at the camera.

(About 15 minutes.)

To be screened on Thursday, 19th October,
and Monday, 23rd October.

ROME, THE ETERNAL CITY

Italy

This film is of an actual and historical interest, for even ancient Rome is illustrated. The film covers the succession of the Holy Years from the time of Pope Boniface VIII to Pope Pius XII, and has complete scenes of the opening of the four Holy Doors in 1950's Holy Year. Produced by Bernardo Alexitch Organisation.

(17 minutes.)

DOCUMENTARY FILMS

About 25 years ago John Grierson, now controller of the films division of the British Central Office of Information, used the word "documentary" in describing Robert Flaherty's film "Moana," thus giving a descriptive name to a motion picture concept which still has never been fully defined.

The documentary method of film making, which first became a movement in Britain under Grierson's leadership, puts its faith in the living fact of everyday life rather than in the fiction of the film studio. Documentary films combine the artistic with the sociological, the factual with the dramatic. In doing so they cover a wide range.

That is why the programmes of New Zealand's first international festival of documentary films is so varied. There are films dealing with the arts of painting, sculpture, music, and drama. Others cover aspects of life in various countries, industrial accidents, soil erosion, bird life, teaching the deaf, farming, and the work of craftsmen in wood, metal, and ceramics. All are designed in some way or other for the purpose of stimulating the desire for, and the widening of, human knowledge and understanding.

The part that documentary films can play in the world today has been well defined by Sir Stephen Tallents, who was the inspiration of the British documentary movement in its early days. His message to the organisers of the festival at Edinburgh in 1949 applies equally to the present festival and its purpose.

"Today the need for a more sensitive and imaginative system of communications — within nations, between nations, stands out starkly defined against a sombre background. This festival provides an admirable opportunity for learning what many countries are today doing to fulfil that need. It also offers a singular opportunity for delight to all those capable of enjoying an artistry that appeals at once to the eye and the ear and the mind.

CHRISTCHURCH FILM SOCIETY (INC.)

This society was established in Christchurch towards the end of 1946. Its objects are:

- (1) To encourage interest in the motion picture, from the point of view of art, education and entertainment.
- (2) To encourage higher public standards in the motion picture.
- (3) To give screenings of films, especially those not normally available.
- (4) To give reliable information about current cinema entertainment.
- (5) To arrange public screenings of special films.

For further information apply to

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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AUSTRALIA	DENMARK	NETHERLANDS
BELGIUM	FRANCE	NEW ZEALAND
BRITAIN	INDIA	POLAND
CANADA	ISRAEL	SOUTH AFRICA
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	ITALY	UNITED STATES

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